

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/849,005

Examiner

Russell Frejd

Applicant(s)

HO ET AL.

Art Unit

2128

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to applicant's amendment received 28-April-2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 11-46 and 48-79.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 19 July 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 28-April-2004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


RUSSELL FREJD
PRIMARY EXAMINER

In re Application of: HO et al.

Allowance of Application # 09/849,005

1. The following communication is in response to applicant's Amendment, received 28-April-2004.

Examiner's Amendment

2. An Examiner's Amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 C.F.R. 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee

3. In the Specification:

Page 24 Line 29 Delete "_____" [Attorney Docket No. M-5302 U.S.] and
Add --08/955,329--.

Page 25 Line 6 Delete "_____" [Attorney Docket No. M-5302 U.S.] and
Add --08/955,329--.

Page 32 Line 9 Delete "_____" [Attorney Docket No. M-5302 U.S.] and
Add --08/955,329--.

Reasons for Allowance

4. The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter. The instant application is directed to a non-obvious improvement over the

In re Application of: HO et al.

inventions described in U.S. Patent No. 5,729,554. The improvement comprises a method for determining defects in the functional behavior of a circuit, the functional behavior of the circuit including a plurality of states and a plurality of transitions between the states, the states including a current state, a plurality of next states reachable from the current state, and a reset state, wherein a circuit simulation transitions the current state to first and second next states, whereby the transition from the current state to the second next state is performed automatically after the transition to the first next state without entering a reset state. This patentable distinction is included in each of the independent claims, nos. 11, 16, 27, 29-31, 33, 42, 44, 48-53, 57, 62, 64, and 69. The art of record, either individually or in combination, fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious the useful, concrete and tangible < method for determining defects in the functional behavior of a circuit > having the corresponding structure which is disclosed in the specification and equivalents thereof (at least at <page 12, line 3 through page 38, line 22, and Figures 1A-4>). In view of the foregoing, the claims of the present application are found to be patentable over the prior art.

Response Guidelines

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should clearly be labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

6. **Any response to the Examiner in regard to this allowance should be**

directed to: Russell Frejd, telephone number (703) 305-4839, Monday-Friday from 0530 to 1400 ET, or the examiner's supervisor, Jean Homere,

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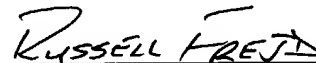
telephone number (703) 308-6647. Any inquiry of a general nature should be directed to the Tech Center 2100 receptionist, telephone number (703) 305-3900. The TC 2100 Customer Service telephone number is (703) 306-5631.

mailed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to: (703) 872-9306

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to 220 South 20th Street, Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03, Arlington, VA., 22202).

Date: 2-September-2004



**RUSSELL FREJD
PRIMARY EXAMINER**